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**Looks to safeguard the health and well-being of citizens while improving regional transportation efficiency and competitiveness**

August 28, 2009

Media, PA - In continuation of his fight for more responsible planning by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) officials, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) requested a copy of the methodologies and underlying data of PHL's recently released Noise Exposure Maps (NEMs).

The NEMs are part of a Noise Compatibility Program that was adopted by the City of Philadelphia in 2002 and are intended to display the noise levels in areas surrounding the airport. Accurate NEMs are necessary for land use planning and zoning by the communities neighboring PHL, and equally important for public health and safety. Extensive studies exist concerning noise, its measurement, its impact on public health and its impact on the ability of humans to carry out cognitive tasks. More specifically, the noise increase from the airspace redesign and its companion capacity enhancement program will result in a greater risk of cardiovascular disease for people under new flight paths, as well as the loss of one year of K-12 education for children.

The Congressman reviewed and compared the 2001, 2008 and projected 2013 noise compatibility footprints published in PHL's recent update. The comparison revealed relatively minor changes—which is completely inconsistent with the major changes that Airspace Redesign, the Capacity Enhancement Program and changed Class B Airspace have brought to PHL and the surrounding areas in recent years.

“I am eager to review these NEMs along with the underlying data to ensure all affected are provided with the most accurate information and empowered to make informed decisions regarding their personal health and the safety of their community. I remain committed to stopping the irresponsible projects at PHL and instead I support efforts such as using regional airports and other infrastructure projects including highway, rail and seaport improvements, which will provide jobs, a stronger economy and a more efficient transportation system for our region.”

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, the Congressman was the first Director of Deep Blue, the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the Global War on Terrorism. He served as President Clintons Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Congressman Sestak is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*